

IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 18-22. These sheets, which include Figs. 18-22, replace the original sheets including Figs. 18-22.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-25, and 28 are pending in this application; Claims 1, 17, and 21 are amended; Claims 2, 3, 5, 6, and 11 are amended to correct cosmetic matters of form; and Claims 26 and 27 are canceled. Support for amended independent Claims 1, 17, and 21 can be found in the original specification, claims and drawings.¹ No new matter is presented.

In the outstanding Office Action, drawings are objected to because of a minor informality; Claims 1-2, 5, 7-9, 11-13, 15-18, and 21 are rejected as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,581,076 to Tabata in view of the background description; Claims 6 and 10 are rejected as unpatentable over Tabata in view of the background description, and U.S. Patent No. 6,661,545 to Sato et al; Claim 3 is rejected as being unpatentable over Tabata in view of the background description, and U.S. Patent No. 5,696,607 to Yamana et al; Claims 23 and 24 are rejected as unpatentable over Tabata in view of the background description, and U.S. Patent No. 4,559,564 to Itoh et al; Claims 4, 14, 19, 20, 22, 25, and 28 were objected to as dependent on rejected base claims, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims; and Claims 26 and 27 have been allowed.

Applicants appreciatively acknowledge the indication of allowable subject matter and the allowed claims.

In regards to the drawings, the above-mentioned drawings are amended to be labeled as "Related Art." Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to Figs. 18-22 be withdrawn.

¹ E.g., specification and original Claims 26 and 27.

In regards to independent Claims 1, 17, and 21, Tabata does not teach of a carriage configured to shift an illumination area in a sub-scanning direction and a support base configured to support and hold the point light source and the light-guiding member together as a unit, and to be attached to the carriage adjustably in the sub-scanning direction. Furthermore, none of the other cited references teach or suggest such limitations. The above noted limitations are features incorporated from Claims 26 and 27 (now canceled as a result of this amendment), which have already been allowed, as noted on page 9 of the Office Action -- the features identified are "neither suggested nor discussed by the prior art of record."

Next, the Office Action contends that Figure 22 discloses an illumination area generated by the light irradiated from the point light source has a high illuminance distribution range of a substantially constant illuminance, and the high illuminance distribution range coincides substantially with the reading area. The high illuminance distribution range of Figure 22 is *not* of a substantially enough constant illuminance, and it does *not* coincide substantially enough with the reading area. The claimed high illuminance distribution range, on the other hand, reaches an even more focused, concentrated, and substantial constant illuminance and coincides in a more focused, concentrated, and substantial manner with the reading area (compare Fig. 22 and Fig. 11). Further, the discussion in the "Background of the Invention" section (including the discussion of Figure 22) is used for exemplary purposes only in order to illustrate the shortcomings in the related art.

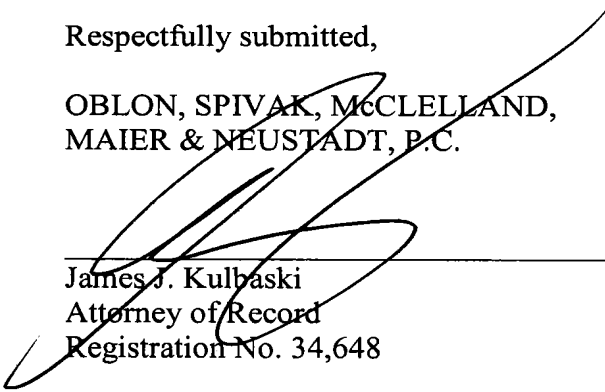
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of independent Claims 1, 17, and 21 (and any claims that depend therefrom) under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

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Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the invention is patentable distinguishing over the applied references. The present application is therefore believed to be in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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